

Message Text

PAGE 01 SEOUL 06475 240848Z

11

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P R 240814Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 236

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

S E C R E T SEOUL 6475

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS/ PFOR PINT KS JA

SUBJECT: KIM TAE CHUNG CASE

REF: SEOUL 6372

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. PRIME MINISTER KIM JONG PIL SENT HIS SECRETARY TO ME TO REPORT A MEETING WITH EX-JAPANESE AMBASSADOR KANAYAMA WHO RETURNED FROM TOKYO AND MET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ON SEP5. 21. KANAYAMA HAD CARRIED KIM'S PROPOSALS (REFTEL) TO TANAKA AND OHIRA AND RETURNED WITH A RESPONSE.

2. ACCORDING TO KIM, KANAYAMA SAID TANAKA WISHES A FURTHER COOLING-OFF PERIOD. TANAKA WAS QUOTE RESPONSIVE UNQUOTE TO THE PROPOSALS BUT WAS NOT READY FOR DISCUSSION ALONG THESE LINES. HE NEITHER REJECTED NOR ACCEPTED THE PROPOSALS BUT WISHED TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSIONS AFTER HIS TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION. THIS WOULD MEAN FURTHER EXPLORATION IN THIS CHANNEL WOULD BE POSTPONED AT LEAST UNTIL MID-OCTOBER.

3. I ASKED ABOUT PRIME MINISTER KIM'S REACTION.

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ACCORDING TO HIS SECRETARY, PRIME MINISTER WAS DISAPPOINTED AND STILL BELIEVED IT WAS PREFERABLE TO TRY TO SETTLE THE MATTER SOON. NEVERTHELESS, GIVEN JAPANESE INSISTENCE HE HAD NO OPTION BUT TO WAIT.

4. IA ASKED WHAT THE JAPANESE PROPOSED SHOULD GO ON DURING THIS COOLING-OFF PERIOD. KANAYAMA HAD SAID THE TWO SIDES SHOULD CONTINUE QUOTE TO COOPERATE IN THE INVESTIGATION UNQUOTE. THERE WAS NOTHING SPECIFIC AS TO WHAT FORM THIS COOPERATION SHOULD TAKE AND PRIME MINISTER KIM HAD NO FURTHER IDEAS AT THIS POINT.

5. KANAYAMA WAS STILL IN SEOUL BUT THERE WERE NO PRESENT PLANS FOR ANOTHER MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. IN EFFECT THESE INDIRECT NEGOTIATIONS ARE AT A STANDSTILL AT JAPANESE REQUEST, ACCORDING TO PRIME MINISTER.

6. I WILL BE SEEING AMBASSADOR USHIROKU WHO HAS RETURNED FROM TOKYO THIS WEEKEND AND WILL SEEK DIRECT ELABORATION OF JAPANESE ATTITUDE. ACCORDING TO PRESS USHIROKU HAS BEEN TOLD BY OHIRA QUOTE THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR UNDUE HASTE FOR THE TIME BEING IN HANDLING THIS CASE UNQUOTE WHEN HE RETURNED TO SEOUL AND THAT JAPAN SHOULD PATIENTLY WAIT FOR SOUTH KOREA TO TAKE QUOTE APPROPRIATE STEPS UNQUOTE TOWARD A SOLUTION.

HABIB

SECRET

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